

sight of us, taking refuge in an oak forest on the hillside above the stream, and when dislodged from its hiding-place, flying further in among the trees and refusing to be shifted again. A week later we made another attempt to get this bird, but although we saw it, we again failed to obtain it.

Some days after, on February 10, 1924, while on a ramble towards the north of Simla, another *Zoothera monticola* was met with. This was a stray bird which was feeding along with a number of *Turdus castaneus* and *albocinctus*.

I did not meet with the Large Brown Thrush again till September 27, 1924. On this date my friend and I explored another part of the ravine where the birds had been seen in January of that year. My companion was lucky enough to find two birds in a heavily-wooded part of the ravine and this time he shot both. I was some distance from him and only caught a hasty glimpse of the birds as they flew into thick cover. The two specimens obtained proved to be a male and a female—probably a pair.

The approximate elevation of the place where the birds were seen is about 6,000 feet.

From the information given above as to the dates on which this Thrush has been met with in Simla it is fairly certain that it is a resident species which probably breeds here, though, so far, the eggs have not been taken in Simla.

The Besra Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter virgatus*). On June 28, 1925, I paid a visit to a favourite ravine (elevation about 6,000 feet) below Summer Hill and one of the first birds I saw was what I at first took to be a smallish Sparrow-Hawk. It appeared suddenly, stooping at a number of small birds—chiefly House-Sparrows feeding on the ground, two or three Green-backed Tits and a pair of Flycatcher-Warblers. The Sparrow-Hawk had no trouble in catching one of these small birds, which it grabbed up and carried off into a thicket of bushes at the side of the ravine. The cries of the captured bird were heard clearly but the hawk could not be seen. After a few seconds it flew out of its hiding-place and perched on a low sapling overhanging the stream. It was shot easily. I found, however, that instead of obtaining a common Sparrow-Hawk I had procured a specimen of the Besra, (*Accipiter virgatus*) (F. B. I. No. 1248). I made a search for the bird it had captured (which was still in the hawk's talons when I shot it) but was unsuccessful. It was, I think, a *Seicercus*. The Besra Sparrow-Hawk was an adult specimen—a beautiful little male.

This Sparrow-Hawk has not been recorded from Simla before, and Mr. A. E. Jones does not mention it in his list of Simla birds (*J. B. N. H. S.*, vol. xxvi). Mr. Jones has recently acquired a specimen—a juvenile male. Mr. H. Whistler thinks that he has seen the Besra near Mahasoo on two occasions.

SIMLA,
1st September, 1925.

S. BASIL-EDWARDES,
M.B.O.U.

No. XII.—RECORD OF A DEATH FROM THE BITE OF A HAMADRYAD OR KING COBRA (*NAIA HANNA*).

A CORRECTION

With reference to the Note (No. xiii) appearing in your *Journal* (volume xxx, No. 3,) headed 'Record of a death from bite of the Hamadryad or King Cobra (*Naiia hanna*)' recording that Mr. Slater of the Mysore Geological Department was killed by a Hamadryad, I would like to point out that Mr. Slater was not killed by a Hamadryad, but by a Russell Viper. Mr. Slater was a collector of snakes, and knowing the sluggish habits of the Russell Viper he went up to the snake in question, and put his foot on it. The rest of Mr. Theobald's Note is substantially correct.

RALPH C. MORRIS.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN P. O.,
26th October, 1925,